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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By JO2 Eileen M. N. Kelly

SH1(SW/AW) Karin D. Sylvia named CNET SOY

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- Petty Officer First Class Karin D. Sylvia catches her breath as she receives the honor of selection as Chief of Naval Education and Training's Sailor of the Year 2000 at the Military Members of the Year Banquet, Thursday, April 5, at National Museum of Naval Aviation aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. The announcement was preceded by a testimony of courage and leadership by Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (Air Warfare/Surface Warfare/Fleet Marine Force) James G. Parlier, command master chief aboard the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer the USS COLE (DDG 67), when the ship was attacked by terrorists Oct. 12, 2000 while refueling in Yemen. Master Chief Boatswain Mate (Surface Warfare) Gregory M. Pratt, CNET Force Master Chief announced Sylvia's selection.

In an interview after the award presentation, Sylvia said she felt the way she believes [the actress] Julia Roberts may have felt receiving her Oscar, "I wanted to say 'Hold that stick, sir. I will never be up here again and I have a lot of people to thank.' I want everyone to know that I am standing among outstanding individuals. I wouldn't be here receiving this honor without the support from my daughter, Stephanie. I hope I've taught her the goal-setting and decisive decision-making skills I've learned throughout my Navy career--which is why she is at school and not here with me today."

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Sylvia named CNET SOY 2-2-2

Sylvia, a ship's serviceman who is dual warfare qualified in both enlisted Surface and Aviation Warfare is assigned to Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va. She is a Cross Utilized Certified Instructor in two ship's serviceman courses and is serving as a board member for the Pilot Course of the Ship's Store Afloat Senior Refresher Course. Sylvia qualified as a Master Training Specialist (MTS) in August 2000 and was chosen by the Curriculum and Instructional Standards Department to become an MTS qualifier.

Sylvia was selected from among Naval Education and Training Command's top seven Sailors. She represents more than nine host commands, 17 medical and dental commands, 22 detachments, 27 overseas remote sites, 35 schoolhouses, 166 direct reporting activities and 13,734 Sailors. As the 2000 CNET Sailor of the Year, she travels to Washington, D.C., to compete for the Navy Shore Sailor of the Year which will be announced by the Chief of Naval Operations in May.

Sylvia was born in Lake Station, Ind. A graduate of Thomas Edison High School, Sylvia was employed in the civilian sector for two years prior to joining the service. In 1982, she enlisted in the Navy and reported to Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Fla. Immediately following basic training, she attended Seaman Apprentice training as an undesignated seaman, upon graduation she reported to Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii. After being onboard two years assigned to the administrative department, Sylvia was selected to attend Ship's Serviceman "A" School in Meridian, Miss. Sylvia, earning the recognition of class honor graduate, received accelerated advancement privileges and was promoted to Ship's Serviceman third class, July 1985, accepting assignment to the Supply department of the Naval Home, Gulfport, Miss.

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Sylvia named CNET SOY 3-3-3

Sylvia reported to the Sales and Service Division onboard the USS LEXINGTON (AVT 16), Pensacola, Fla., in October 1986. While onboard she attended Ship's Serviceman Barber "C" School and Ship's Store Afloat Resale Operations Management User Course. The 19-year Navy veteran advanced to second class petty officer, November 1989, and was hand selected as Sales and Services Leading Petty Officer (LPO) by her division officer. Sylvia led 28 Sailors, serving as the LPO, until the Lexington's decommissioning when she was advanced to first class petty officer, July 1991.

In October 1991, Sylvia volunteered for recruiting duty and was assigned to Naval Recruiting District Indianapolis, Ind. She was board selected as a Recruiter-in-Charge of a medium station, one of five within the recruiting zone. Following recruiter duty, February 1995, Sylvia attended Ship's Store Afloat Resale Operation Management Supervisor Course "C" School. Upon graduation she was assigned as the Retail Supervisor and Cash Collection Agent onboard the USS YELLOWSTONE (AD 41).

Following a brief tour at Fleet Assist Team, Norfolk, Va., she reported onboard the aircraft carrier USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) in December 1996. As supply Department Career Counselor, she was responsible to more than 300 personnel, including augmentees to the KENNEDY during her 1997 Mediterranean deployment. In 18 months, Sylvia processed more than 60 Supply Department reenlistments.

Prior to reporting to Fleet Training Center (FLETRACEN), Norfolk in January 1999, Sylvia completed the Instructor Training Course. Her qualifications provide FLETRACEN added flexibility; she serves as Instructor, Curriculum Development Manager and Educational Technical In-Service Training Manager.

Sylvia named CNET SOY 4-4-4

During her assignments at sea, Sylvia achieved qualification in both enlisted Surface and Aviation Warfare. She holds four Navy Enlisted Classifications, including 3111, 3122, 9585, 9502. Her personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal, (five awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and various other unit and personal awards.

The Sailor of the Year Program recognizes the very best all-around Sailors from pay grades E-6 and below. Nominees are judged on their sustained superior performance, duty assignments, leadership, self-improvement, command or community involvement, and appearance.

"I'm very honored to be selected CNET Sailor of the Year," said Sylvia. "I am very proud to part of this competition with the other Sailors of the Year. They are all outstanding individuals and I hope to see them out in the fleet all wearing khakis," said the dual warfare qualified Sailor.

If selected as the Navy Shore Sailor of the Year, she will be meritoriously advanced to Chief Petty Officer.

"When I think about it, the most important part of my career was while attached to the LEXINGTON-- being hand selected as the LPO of my division. It gave me great pride to know my supervisor trusted me. I learned the most then. I was left to make decisions, right or wrong, I understood that the responsibility laid on my shoulders. I learned why setting goals was important, for me and for those Sailors who worked for me. I learned to be a goal setter and how to share my training and knowledge with others," said Sylvia, who was also selected as the FLETRACEN Sailor of the Year.

Vice Adm. Craine chief of Naval Education and Training, presented Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals to the other six finalists during the banquet.

Sylvia named CNET SOY 5-5-5

Representing Naval Technical Training Unit (NTTU), Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was Aviation Electronics Technician First Class Steven J. Day. The aviation-warfare-qualified native of Troy, Ohio, is a nine-year Navy veteran and qualified Command Duty Officer.

Representing Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), Pensacola, Fla., was Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class Darrell S. Resendez. He is a Coos Bay, Ore., native and a 19-year Navy aviation-warfare qualified veteran assigned as Military Standards Department (MDS) Leading Petty Officer.

Representing Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC), Corry Station, Pensacola, Fla., was Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Ronald K. Robinette. He is a surface-warfare-qualified native of Burlington, N. C., as well as an eight-year Navy veteran.

Representing Naval Air Maintenance Training Group (NAMTRAGRU), Pensacola, Fla., was Aviation Structural Mechanic Petty Officer First Class Sophia Loren Hargrove. She is a Barbados, West Indies native and a 19-year aviation-warfare qualified Navy veteran who is an E2/C2 airframe Instructor assigned to Naval Air Maintenance Training Group Detachment (NAMTRAGRUDET), Norfolk, Va.

Representing Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill., was Electronics Technician First Class James A. Ritch. He is a Woodland, Calif., native and a surface-warfare qualified ten-year Navy veteran assigned as an instructor for electronics technician "A" school.

Representing Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA), Corpus Christi, Texas, was Aviation Warfare Systems Operator First Class Christopher D. Caton. The 15-year aviation-warfare-qualified Navy veteran was born in Honolulu and is currently assigned to Naval Aviation Schools Command (NAVAVSCOLSCOM), Pensacola, Fla.

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